

TREE Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 13, 2010
Deltaville Maritime Museum

We have lots of new and exciting projects starting up, so we hope to see many people at our next meeting!

In attendance: Bill Walker, Faye Andrashko, Linda McConahey, Gayl Fowler, Gordon Dudley, Bobbi Burton, Gary Garrett (Northern Neck Audubon Society), Linda Miller (SAIF Water), Wendy Mataya

Speaker: Gayl Fowler, from SAIF Water, spoke about "Science and Public Policy on Groundwater in Eastern Virginia."

- She first told us about a talk by Robert Wayland at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock on Thursday, May 13 from 2-4pm. He will be speaking on "A Strong Economy, A Clean Bay, and Safe Drinking Water—Can we have it all?" This talk is free and open to the public.
- To summarize Gayl's talk, she pointed out four major needs in public policy for the Northern Neck. 1) We need to have observation well research stations throughout the Northern Neck so we know how much water we have, where it's coming from, and how the aquifers are standing up; 2) The Northern Neck needs to become part of the Groundwater Management designation; 3) Government and public recognition that water is a limited resource is important; and 4) We need to start conservation and water supply planning.
- In essence, **education of the issue is the key.**

Upcoming events:

- Northern Neck Master Gardeners are having a rain barrel workshop on April 24 at Belle Isle.
- Girl Scout camps are now registering girls from K-12!

TREE updates:

- We have been approved for a second DEQ grant of \$2750. We will be using this money for scholarships to the Environmental Educators Conference, rental space for meetings, speaker honoraria, supplies, trainings, and our stewardship project.
- Faye has created a brochure for TREE so we can start advertising our existence and recruit new members. She has a draft done that she will happily circulate to people for comments—input is welcome! If you have suggestions for the brochure, please send them to her.
- On Thursday, May 6, from 1-5pm, we will have a Livable Neighborhoods seminar. The location for this seminar is to be determined. There are still a few slots left in this, so please let Faye know if you're interested in coming!
- A future speaker we're looking to have at a TREE meeting is Mike Hayslett, who has done a lot of work on returning unused agricultural fields back to the marshes they originally used to be. We are planning to have him come and speak to us about his work with restoring wetlands to agricultural fields that were long ago tiled for drainage and cropping. Then we'll go out and find some of these areas so he can show us how the work is done. We might be able to do a project like this at Hull Springs Farm.
- In addition, we are considering doing a vernal pool educational walk with Mike Hayslett as well, so we can see some of the pools that exist only in the springtime, and learn how

important they are for the ecosystems/environment. This may be a preliminary to a future public program on vernal pools.

- We tossed around the idea of creating a teaching wetland at Hull Springs Farm. This is something we will definitely come back to in the future as a project for TREE.

Next meeting:

- Either in July or August at Omega Protein or the Reedville Fisherman's Museum—Faye will be coordinating dates and times for this.
- At the same time, Faye will also establish meeting dates for all of next year, so we can plan our schedules around those dates and hopefully even more people can attend the meetings.